

MADLEY BROOK CP SCHOOL

Head Teacher:
Mrs Katherine Spencer

Telephone: (01993) 862976
Fax: (01993) 774184



*Achieving Excellence by
Challenging Boundaries*

@ THE BRONZE BARROW
Cedar Drive
Witney
Oxfordshire
OX28 1AR

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Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! We hope you have had a great Summer break and are looking forward to the new school year.

Here is some information you may find useful regarding the year ahead:

- All children in KS1 are entitled to free school dinners and will be given the day's choices during register time. Please try to ensure there is an option your child would like in advance.
- Each child will need a PE kit containing a plain white t-shirt, black shorts, jogging bottoms and trainers or plimsolls **all clearly marked** with your child's name. These will be sent home each holiday to be washed. A jumper is also required for PE during colder months (in addition to their school jumper).
- Please help your child to take part in this year's reading challenge. They may change their reading books everyday as long as they have read the book to an adult and this has been acknowledged in their reading diaries.
- Tuck shop will continue to operate on a Friday. A £5 tuck shop card is available; if you would like one for your child please send the money in a labelled and sealed envelope. Reminders will be sent home if your child's card is running low.
- Please make sure your child has a named and filled water bottle every day as it is important that they stay hydrated. Only water in the bottles please!
- If your child has Independent Learning (homework), it will be sent home on a Friday with the expectation that it will be returned/completed by the following Wednesday. Letters are also sent home in book bags on a Friday.
- Children will have the option of a healthy snack every day for break time; this will be provided by the school.
- Please ensure that all items of clothing, including shoes, are **labelled with your child's name**. Jumpers are frequently left at school and we will always do our best to get these back to the correct children, but names do make this much easier!
- In the morning, please notify the class teacher if someone other than yourself will be collecting your child at the end of the day. You can also send this information in writing, if it is a regular arrangement.
- Teachers and/or teaching assistants are available at the start of the day briefly if you need to talk to us. If you would like to speak to one of us at any length, or the matter is not urgent, then it is best to arrange an after school meeting where we can give you our full attention.
- Toys and teddies are not allowed in school and pencil cases are not required as we provide the children with all resources they need.
- In KS1 we run a reward system which we call Fun Time Friday. Stars are awarded in class for displaying excellent learning behaviours such as trying hard, not giving up and helping others. They are also awarded for excellent work and displaying our values through their behaviour. Your children have already discussed what they would

like to earn stars for and we will begin this next week. They need to earn 5 stars in a week in order to take part in all of the Fun Time Friday time.

- In all subject areas, including English & Maths, teachers plan together and provide challenges at the appropriate level for your child. In KS1 our learning is more formal due to the demand and high expectations of the curriculum. There is less opportunity for unstructured play and your child may find this quite difficult at first. They do, however, always rise to the challenge and we are looking forward to them achieving well.
- As in previous years, Year 2 children will be expected to sit formal tests at the end of the year in Reading, Writing, Spelling & Grammar, and Maths. Year 1 children will undertake the phonics test at the end of the year. We approach these in a relaxed way with very little pressure on the children. We practice these situations throughout the year so the children are used to sitting papers like these and some don't even know they have done their sats! We have a national framework which we assess against regularly in Year 2 and all children will be given the opportunity to access work based on this. The results of the assessments will be reported to you - you will know whether they are at the expected standard or not. This information is also passed on to the next class teacher in order for them to provide any support needed in the future.
- If your child is ill, please inform the school office and they will advise you of suitable return dates. If your child has regular medication (for example an inhaler) please make sure they are in date and handed in to the class teacher. Appropriate paperwork needs to be obtained from the office and completed in order to do this. We are unable to administer medicines such as Calpol and antibiotics. Please discuss this further with the office if your child is in need of this.
- Parent teacher meetings will be held in October and February to discuss your child's progress. We are also planning a number of open door sessions where you will be invited to come in and have a look at your child's books and classroom. Further details will be published on the school newsletters.

If you have any other questions, please feel free to pop in to see us at the end of the day or arrange a meeting.

Thank you for your support

Mr Curtis, Mrs Collins & Ms Evans